

## NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENTS, 1854-1911.

There have been eleven legislative apportionments of Nebraska, five in the territorial and six in the state period.

The organic act of Nebraska territory, known in history as the Nebraska-Kansas bill, signed by President Franklin Pierce, May 30, 1854, fixed the membership in the upper house (called council) of the Nebraska legislature at 13 and that of the lower house at 26 members. The legislature was authorized to increase the membership in the lower house to 39 members, but was not to alter that of the council. The first apportionment was made by Acting-Governor Cuming November 23, 1854, under authority of a clause in the organic act. There was violent objection to the fairness of this apportionment arising chiefly out of the contest between Bellevue and Omaha for the territorial capital.

The first territorial legislature met January 16, 1855, at Omaha and passed an apportionment bill specifying that the number of members in the house should not exceed 29.

The next apportionment was made the following year, 1855-56, by Governor Izard, under an act of the legislature fixing the membership of the house at 35 and leaving the governor to make the apportionment. There was strong criticism of this apportionment, which gave the North Platte section, with a population less than one-half of the South Platte, 7 members of the upper house against 6 to the South Platte.

The next apportionment in 1858 was made under an act of the legislature itself which provided for a membership of 39 and included five new counties. The governor's apportionment seems to have provision for only 35 and in the next session there were but 33 lower house members. Between 1857 and 1864 there were no new general legislative apportionments, but numerous changes were made by creation of new districts or attaching counties to other districts.

In 1864 another legislative apportionment was made. Representation from the North Platte was reduced from 7 to 6 in the council and from 19 to 16 in the house.

The first state apportionment was made in 1867, under the new constitution adopted June 2, 1866, and did not alter the total number of members in either house. It changed the name of the upper house from council to senate.

The next apportionment was made in 1871. At the time it was made it appears to have been a very fair one. But immigration was pouring into the state at a very rapid rate and by the autumn of 1873, two years and a half after the apportionment, the population of the state had doubled and most of the increase had been in the counties west of the sixth principal meridian. The sentiment in the western counties for additional representation in the legislature had grown to a positive demand. Ten of the thirteen members of the senate represented the Missouri river counties and the first tier of counties west of them leaving but three senators to represent the rest of the state. The 12th senatorial district included 23 counties in the South Platte with a population of 50,000, or one-fourth of the total population of the state, with one member in the house. Eight of the South Platte counties together had one member in the house, while Richardson county with less population had three members.

The movement for an increased representation of the western part of the state grew steadily during the winter of 1874. On May 14 of the same year a convention of western Nebraskans was held in Lincoln to discuss this subject. The convention decided to await the result of the October election which would indicate the popular demand for a new constitution, and then advocate a called session of the legislature to secure the political rights of the western counties. This plan failed and a new one was adopted. A meeting of the friends of the western section was arranged to be held at Kearney Junction immediately after the state central committee had made the call for the republican state convention in 1874. If the west did not obtain from the state committee the representation it was entitled to in the convention, it resolved to oppose all

candidates nominated by the faction which denied them their rights. The threat succeeded. The state central committee issued the call for a convention of 259 delegates, and the republicans west of the sixth principal meridian secured what they asked, one additional delegate being given to each county in that region.

The constitutional convention of 1875 made the next legislative apportionment. It increased membership in the senate from 13 to 33 and fixed the upper limit in the house at 100. The entire state was re-districted and representation of the western counties greatly increased. On the basis of population both North and South Platte were fairly treated. Only 30 senators and 84 representatives were apportioned by the constitutional convention, the future increase to 33 for the senate and 100 for the house being left for future acts of the legislature. The constitution of 1875 also required the legislature to make a new apportionment at its first session after the United States census and after each state census which it required to be taken in 1885 and each ten years thereafter.

The legislature of 1881 made a reapportionment, increasing membership in the senate to 33 and in the house to 100, the full number permitted by the constitution. This apportionment on the whole seems to have been fairly made.

A state census was taken in 1885, the only one taken under the requirement of the constitution, and in 1887 the legislature reapportioned the state. In this apportionment Nemaha and Johnson counties, Rock and Brown were given larger representation than they were entitled to, due perhaps to the unwillingness of the committee to form large float districts.

The western half of the state filled very rapidly with new settlers in the years following 1887. By the time of the next United States census in 1890 all the unorganized territory had been formed into counties. A reapportionment at this time would have taken representation away from the eastern part of the state and placed it in the west. After a long and acrimonious debate the legislature of 1891 killed the apportionment bill required by the state constitution. The same action was repeated in 1897 and again in 1901.

It was not until the session of 1911, fourteen years after the previous apportionment, that the legislature redistricted the state. The maps which accompany this chapter set forth in graphic form the equity of different apportionments. The tables which follow present the condensed data of these apportionments:

#### APPORTIONMENTS NORTH AND SOUTH

The plus mark denotes that the following was a divided representation with the other section.

Years	Senate			House		
	North Platte	South Platte	Total	North Platte	South Platte	Total
1855.....	7	6	13	14	12	26
1855-6.....	7	6	13	12	16	28
1858.....	7	6	13	19	20	39
1864.....	5 + 1	7 + 1	13	16	23	39
1867.....	5	8	13	15 + 2	22 + 2	39
1871.....	4 + 2	7 + 2	13	15 + 3	21 + 3	39
1875.....	11 + 2	17 + 2	30*	26 + 5	49 + 5	80*
1881.....	13	20	33	40	60	100
1887.....	14 + 4	15 + 4	33	43 + 3	54 + 3	100
1911.....	17 + 1	15 + 1	33	55 + 1	44 + 1	100

\*1875. This apportionment of members has only 30 senators and 80 representatives.

The Platte river with its south fork divides Nebraska into north and south groups of counties, as follows:

NORTH.			SOUTH.		
Antelope.	Deuel.	Madison.	Adams.	Hamilton.	Pawnee.
Arthur.	Dixon.	Merrick.	Butler.	Harlan.	Perkins.
Banner.	Dodge.	Morrill.	Cass.	Hayes.	Phelps.
Blaine.	Douglas.	Nance.	Chase.	Hitchcock.	Polk.
Boone.	Garden.	Pierce.	Clay.	Jefferson.	Red Willow.
Box Butte.	Garfield.	Platte.	Dundy.	Johnson.	Richardson.
Boyd.	Grant.	Rock.	Fillmore.	Kearney.	Saline.
Brown.	Greeley.	Sarpy.	Franklin.	Lancaster.	Saunders.
Buffalo.	Hall.	Scott's Bluff.	Frontier.	Lincoln.	Seward.
Burt.	Holt.	Sheridan.	Furnas.	Nemaha.	Thayer.
Cedar.	Hooker.	Sherman.	Gage.	Nuckolls.	Webster.
Cherry.	Howard.	Sioux.	Gosper.	Otoe.	York.
Cheyenne.	Keith.	Stanton.			
Colfax.	Keya Paha.	Thomas.			
Cuming.	Kimball.	Thurston.			
Custer.	Knox.	Valley.			
Dakota.	Logan.	Washington.			
Dawes.	Loup.	Wayne.			
Dawson.	McPherson.	Wheeler.			

#### APPORTIONMENTS EAST AND WEST

The plus mark denotes that the following was a divided representation with the other section.

Years	Senate			House		
	East	West	Total	East	West	Total
1875.....	25 + 3	2 + 3	30*	67 + 2	11 + 2	80*
1881.....	23 + 4	6 + 4	33	77	23	100
1887.....	22 + 2	9 + 2	33	71	29	100
1911.....	22 + 2	9 + 2	33	65 + 1	34 + 1	100

\*1875. This apportionment of members has only 30 senators and 80 representatives.

The first guide meridian west divides Nebraska into east and west groups of counties, as follows:

EAST.			WEST.		
Antelope.	Gage.	Platte.	Adams.	Furnas.	Lincoln.
Boone.	Hamilton.	Polk.	Arthur.	Garden.	Logan.
Burt.	Jefferson.	Richardson.	Banner.	Garfield.	Loup.
Butler.	Johnson.	Saline.	Blaine.	Gosper.	McPherson.
Cass.	Knox.	Sarpy.	Box Butte.	Grant.	Morrill.
Cedar.	Lancaster.	Saunders.	Boyd.	Greeley.	Perkins.
Clay.	Madison.	Seward.	Brown.	Hall.	Phelps.
Colfax.	Merrick.	Stanton.	Buffalo.	Harlan.	Red Willow.
Cuming.	Nance.	Thayer.	Chase.	Hayes.	Rock.
Dakota.	Nemaha.	Thurston.	Cherry.	Hitchcock.	Scott's Bluff.
Dixon.	Nuckolls.	Washington.	Cheyenne.	Holt.	Sheridan.
Dodge.	Otoe.	Wayne.	Custer.	Hooker.	Sherman.
Douglas.	Pawnee.	York.	Dawes.	Howard.	Sioux.
Fillmore.	Pierce.		Dawson.	Kearney.	Thomas.
			Deuel.	Keith.	Valley.
			Dundy.	Keya Paha.	Webster.
			Franklin.	Kimball.	Wheeler.
			Frontier.		

RATIO OF POPULATION TO REPRESENTATION IN THE SENATE UNDER THE  
APPORTIONMENT OF 1911.

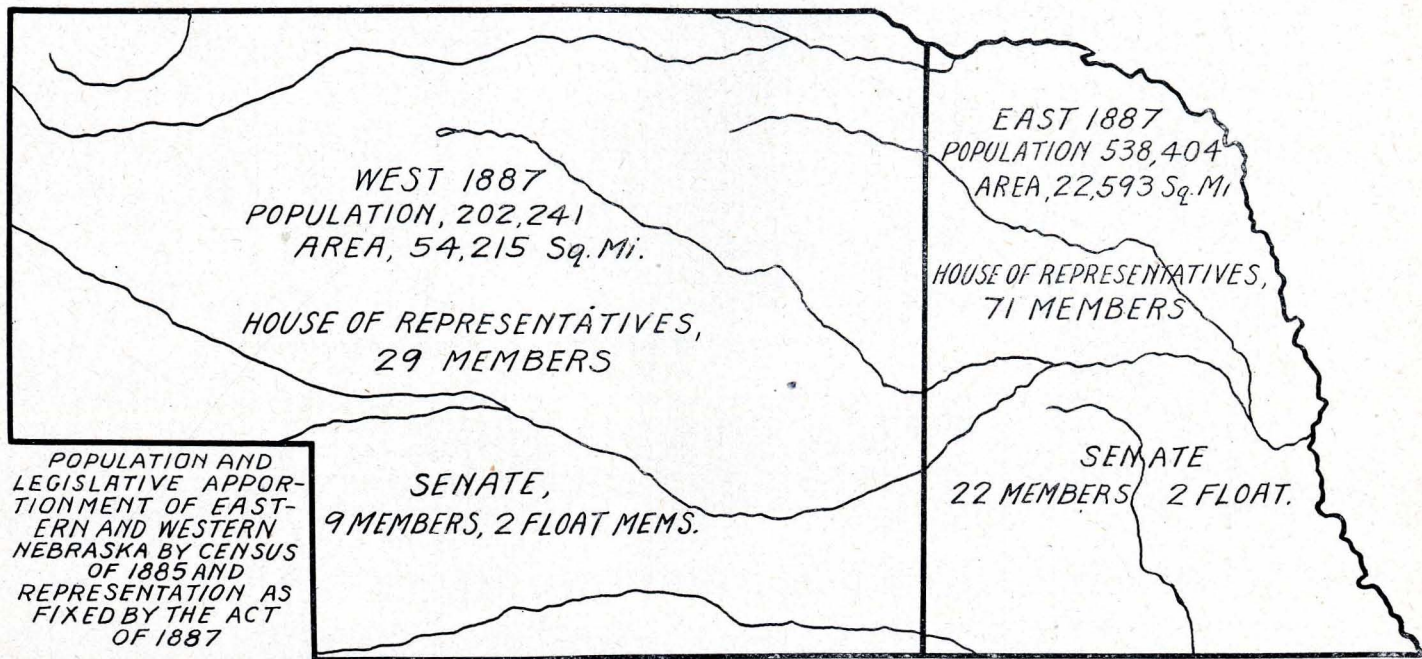
1911, total population, 1,192,214. Ratio, 1 senator to every 36,370.

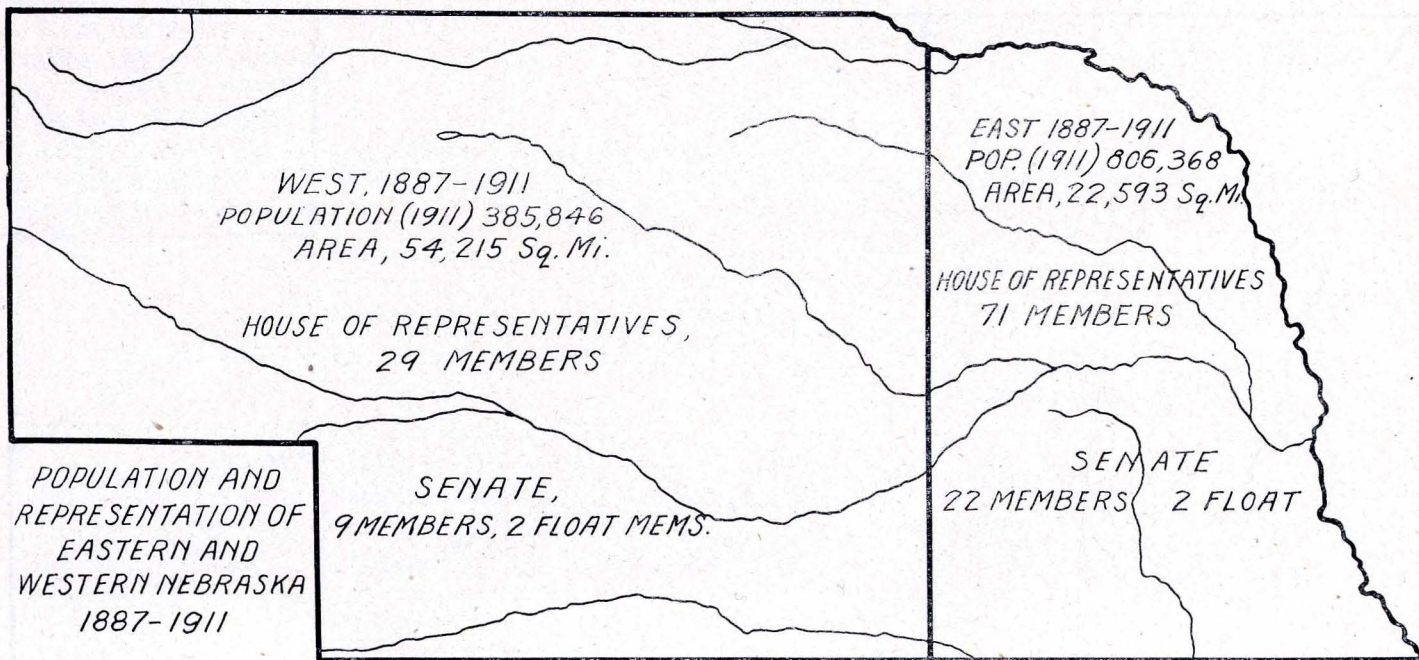
Dis- trict	Counties	Popula- tion	Mem- bers	Dis- trict	Counties	Popula- tion	Mem- bers
1	Richardson 17,488, Ne- maha 13,095, Johnson 10,187.....	40,770	1	20	Nuckolls 13,019, Webster 12,008, Franklin 10,303	35,330	1
2	Cass 19,786, Otoe 19,324	39,110	1	21	Harlan 9,570, Furnas 12,- 083, Gosper 4,933, Phelps 10,451.....	37,037	1
3	Saunders 21,145, Sarpy 9,274.....	30,419	1	22	Buffalo 21,907, Sherman 8,275, Kearney 9,106....	39,288	1
4	Douglas.....	168,546	5	23	Custer 25,668, Valley 9,480, Blaine 1,672, Loup 2,188.....	39,008	1
5	Washington 12,738, Dodge 22,145.....	34,883	1	24	Boyd 8,826, Holt 15,545, Garfield 3,417, Wheeler 2,292, Keya Paha 3,- 452.....	33,532	1
6	Burt 12,726, Thurston 8,704, Dakota 6,564, Dixon 11,477.....	39,471	1	25	Lincoln 15,684, Dawson 15,961, Keith, 3,692....	35,337	1
7	Cuming 13,782, Wayne 10,397, Pierce 10,122....	34,301	1	26	Frontier 8,572, Red Wil- low 11,056, Hitchcock 5,415, Hayes 3,011, Dundy 4,098, Perkins 2,570, Chase 3,611.....	38,333	1
8	Cedar 15,191, Knox 18,- 358.....	33,549	1	27	Scott's Bluff 8,355, Ban- ner 1,444, Kimball 1,- 942, Morrill 4,584, Cheyenne 4,551, Gar- den 3,538, Deuel 1,786, Grant 1,097, Hooker 981, Thomas 1,191, McPherson 2,470, Lo- gan 1521.....	33,460	1
9	Antelope 14,003, Boone 13,145, Nance 8,926.....	36,074	1	28	Cherry 10,414, Sheridan 7,328, Dawes 5,254, Box Butte 6,131, Rock 3,627, Brown 6,083, Sioux 5,599.....	44,436	1
10	Madison 19,101, Stanton 7,542, Colfax 11,610....	38,253	1		Total.....		33
11	Platte 19,006, Polk 10,- 521, Merriek 10,379....	39,906	1				
12	Seward 16,895, Butler 15,403.....	31,298	1				
13	Lancaster.....	73,793	2				
14	Gage 30,525, Pawnee 10,- 582.....	41,053	1				
15	Jefferson 16,852, Thayer 14,775.....	31,627	1				
16	Fillmore 14,674, Saline 17,866.....	32,540	1				
17	York 18,721, Hamilton 13,459.....	32,180	1				
18	Hall 20,361, Howard 10,- 783, Greeley 8,047.....	39,191	1				
19	Adams 20,900, Clay 15,- 729.....	36,629	1				

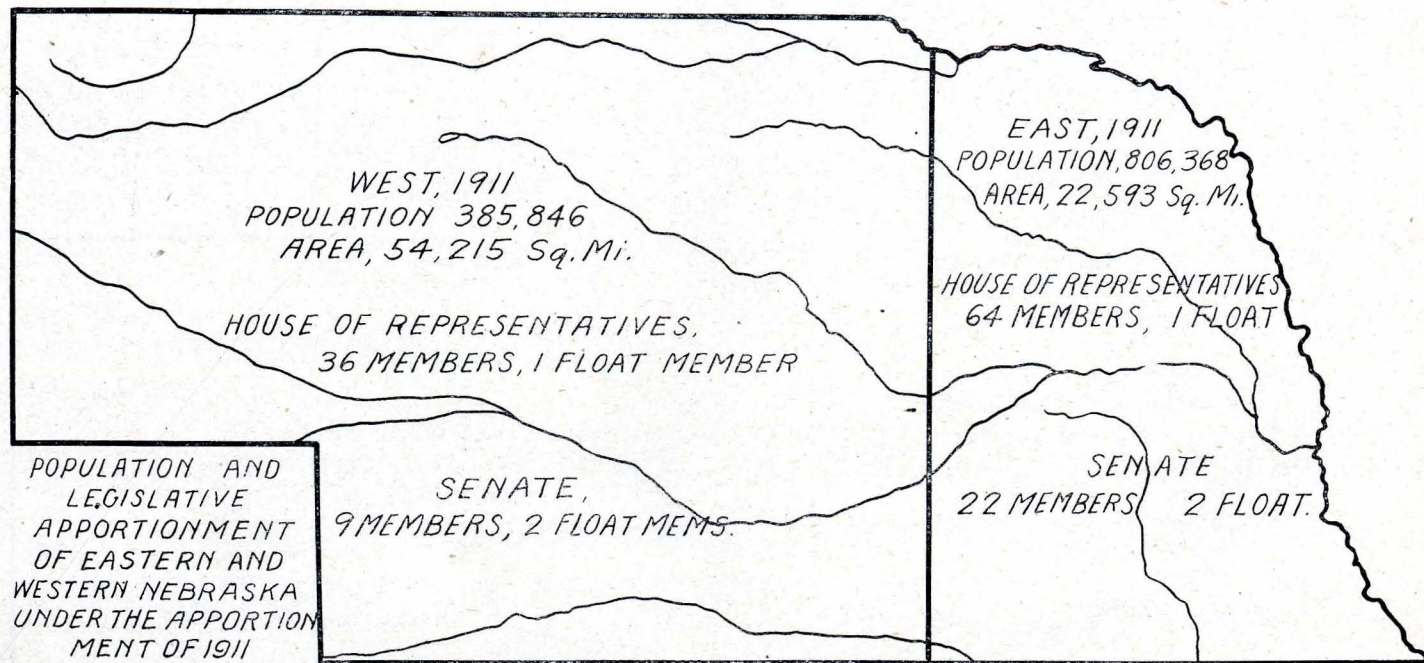
## RATIO OF POPULATION TO REPRESENTATION IN THE HOUSE UNDER THE APPOINTMENT OF 1911.

1911, total population, 1,192,214. Ratio, 1 representative to every 11,922.

Dis- trict	Counties	Popu- lation	Mem- bers	Dis- trict	Counties	Popu- lation	Mem- bers
1	Richardson	17,448	1	45	Nuckolls	13,019	1
2	Nemaha	13,095	1	46	Webster	12,008	1
3	Richardson 5,526, Nemaha 1,173	6,699	1	47	Adams	20,900	2
4	Pawnee	10,582	1	48	Hall	20,361	2
5	Johnson	10,187	1	49	Merrick	10,379	1
6	Otoe	19,324	1	50	Nance	8,926	1
7	Cass	19,786	1	51	Howard	10,783	1
8	Cass 7,864, Otoe 7,402	15,266	1	52	Greeley 8,047, Wheeler 2,292, Garfield 3,417	13,756	1
9	Sarpy	9,274	1	53	Holt	15,545	1
10	Douglas	168,546	12	54	Boyd 8,826, Holt 3,623	12,449	1
11	Washington	12,738	1	55	Rock 3,627, Brown 5,083, Keya Paha 3,452	13,162	1
12	Burt	12,726	1	56	Valley	9,480	1
13	Thurston 8,704, Dakota 6,564	15,268	1	57	Sherman	8,275	1
14	Dixon	11,477	1	58	Custer	25,668	2
15	Cedar	15,191	1	59	Buffalo	21,907	2
16	Knox	18,358	1	60	Kearney	9,106	1
17	Cedar 3,269, Knox 6,436	9,705	1	61	Franklin	10,303	1
18	Antelope	14,003	1	62	Harlan	9,570	1
19	Pierce	10,122	1	63	Phelps	10,451	1
20	Wayne	10,397	1	64	Furnas	12,083	1
21	Cuming	13,782	1	65	Red Willow	11,056	1
22	Stanton 7,542, Cuming 1,860	9,402	1	66	Frontier 8,572, Gosper 4,933	13,505	1
23	Boone	13,145	1	67	Dawson	15,961	1
24	Madison	19,101	1	68	Lincoln	15,684	1
25	Platte	19,006	1	69	Hitchcock 5,415, Dundy 4,098	9,513	1
26	Platte 7,084, Madison 7,179	14,263	1	70	Chase 3,613, Perkins 2,570, Hayes 3,011	9,194	1
27	Colfax	11,610	1	71	Loup 2,188, Blaine 1,672, Grant 1,097, Hooker 981, Thomas 1,191, McPherson 2,470, Logan 1,521	11,120	1
28	Dodge	22,145	2	72	Cherry	10,414	1
29	Saunders	21,145	2	73	Sheridan 7,328, Box Butte 6,131	13,459	1
30	Lancaster	73,793	6	74	Dawes 5,254, Sioux 5,599	10,853	1
31	Gage	30,525	2	75	Scott's Bluff 8,355, Morrill 4,584	12,939	1
32	Jefferson	16,852	1	76	Banner 1,444, Kimball 1,942, Cheyenne 4,551, Deuel 1,786, Garden 3,538	13,261	1
33	Thayer	14,775	1	77	Keith 3,692, Lincoln 3,762, Dawson 4,039	11,493	1
34	Gage 6,681, Jefferson 4,930, Thayer 2,853	14,464	1		Total	100	
35	Saline	17,866	1				
36	Seward	15,895	1				
37	Butler	15,403	1				
38	Saline 944, Seward 3,973, Butler 3,481	8,398	1				
39	Polk	10,521	1				
40	York	18,721	1				
41	Fillmore	14,674	1				
42	Clay	15,729	1				
43	York 6,799, Fillmore 2,752, Clay 3,807	13,358	1				
44	Hamilton	13,459	1				









NORTH PLATTE 1911  
 POPULATION, 673,617  
 AREA, 52,368 Sq. Mi.  
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 55 MEMBERS, 1 FLOAT MEMBER  
 SENATE,  
 17 MEMBERS, 1 FLOAT MEMBER

NORTH PLATTE VS.  
 SOUTH PLATTE.  
 POPULATION AND  
 LEGISLATIVE  
 REPRESENTATION  
 1911

SOUTH PLATTE, 1911  
 POPULATION, 518,597  
 AREA, 24,440 Sq. Mi.  
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 44 MEMBERS, 1 FLOAT MEMBER  
 SENATE, 15 MEMBERS, 1 FLOAT MEMBER